

Message Text

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ACTION L-03

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CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 TRSE-00

XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01

NSC-05 SS-15 STR-04 CEA-01 /092 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

TO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1244

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MONROVIA 5313

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, UN, ECOSOC, EGEN, EFIN, LI

SUBJECT: 61ST ECOSOC: U.S. PROPOSAL ON ILLICIT PAYMENTS

GENEVA ALSO FOR AMBASSADOR CARTER

REF: (A) GENEVA 6024, (B) MONROVIA 5262

1. AT JULY 27 MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER DENNIS CHARGE AGAIN URGED LIBERIAN CO-SPONSORSHIP OF U.S. PROPOSAL ON ILLICIT PAYMENTS. DENNIS NOTED GOL'S CAMPAIGN TO ELIMINATE CORRUPTION. (COMMENT: PRESIDENT TOLBERT LAST YEAR CREATED NATIONAL FORCE FOR THE ERADICATION OF CORRUPTION.) HE SAID PROPOSAL IS CONSISTENT WITH GOL POLICY, AND EVERY EFFORT WILL BE MADE TO ELIMINATE CORRUPT PRACTICES AT TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATION LEVEL AND, IN FACT, IN INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS GENERALLY. HE THOUGHT STATE CONCERNED HAD RESPONSIBILITY TO PASS LAWS AND PUNISH OFFENDERS. DENNIS ALSO NOTED SERIOUS ALLEGATIONS IN U.S. PRESS INVOLVING PAYMENTS TO OFTEN-UNSPECIFIED AND SOMETIMES-SPECIFIED

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FOREIGN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. HE SAID OTHERS (READ "AFRICAN BROTH-

ERS") WOULD ASK, "WHAT IS LIBERIA TRYING TO PROVE?"

2. CHARGE AGREED THAT COUNTRY INVOLVED MUST DO ITS PART TO RESOLVE PROBLEM, THAT USG IS DOING THAT, BUT THAT IT SEES MATTER AS A TWO-PART PROCESS REQUIRING AS WELL INTERNATIONAL ACTION SUCH AS PROPOSED BY USG. HE NOTED THAT CHARGES LEVIED COVERED COMPANIES INVOLVED IN FREE ENTERPRISE AND THAT LIBERIA, WHOSE ECONOMY IS ALSO BASED ON FREE ENTERPRISE, AS CONFIRMED JULY 16 IN PRESIDENT TOLBERT'S NATIONAL DAY MESSAGE, THEREFORE HAS PARTICULAR STAKE IN SUCCESS OF EFFORT AGAINST ILLICIT PAYMENTS AND IN SUCCESS OF PROPOSAL IN ECOSOC.

3. DENNIS SAID THERE WAS NO QUESTION THAT GOL WOULD VOTE FOR U.S. PROPOSAL. HIS DIFFICULTY IS WITH LIBERIAN CO-SPONSORSHIP. HE AGREED TO REVIEW MATTER WITH PRESIDENT TOLBERT. ALTHOUGH DENNIS DID NOT COMMIT HIMSELF ONE WAY OR OTHER, HE WANTED TO KNOW WHAT OTHER COUNTRIES HAD AGREED TO CO-SPONSOR. CHARGE UNDERTOOK TO PROVIDE NAMES OF COUNTRIES WHO HAVE ALREADY AGREED TO DO SO.

4. COMMENT. EMBASSY SUGGESTS THAT LIBERIAN REPRESENTATION AT GENEVA IS NOT BEST TRAGET TO LOBBY AS SUGGESTED GENEVA 6024. DECISION WILL BE MADE IN MONROVIA AT HIGHEST LEVEL ON RECOMMENDATION OF FOREIGN MINISTER DENNIS NOT IN CONTEXT OF LIBERIA AND USESCO BUT IN BROADER CONTEXT OF LIBERIA'S RELATIONS WITH AFRICAN AND NONALIGNED NATIONS. WHILE AWARE OF INCHOATE NATURE OF MISSION'S EFFORTS (GENEVA 6024), EMBASSY BELIEVES ONLY CHANCE WE HAVE OF GETTING GOL CO-SPONSORSHIP IS TO SHOW THAT GOL WOULD NOT BE SOLE MEMBER OF THOSE GROUPS, PARTICULARLY AFRICANS, IN DOING SO.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY MONROVIA AGAIN REQUESTS THAT IT BE PROVIDED WITH NAMES OF COUNTRIES THAT AS OF NOW ACEA REED TO CO-SPONSOR.
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